

MILLARD FILLMORE

1850 - 1853



Millard Fillmore was born in 1800 in Cayuga County, New York. He practiced law in New York, and entered politics with the Anti-Masonic party, then followed party boss Thurlow Weed into the Whig party. He was first married to Abigail Powers, who died in 1853, and in 1858 married Caroline McIntosh.

Abigail Powers Fillmore was born in Saratoga County, New York, in 1798. She shared an eagerness for schooling with Millard Fillmore, whom she met in 1819 in New York. They were married in 1826, and had one son.



President Millard Fillmore served in the House of Representatives and had a leading role in writing the tariff of 1842. He became New York state comptroller in 1848, after he was defeated for governor of New York in 1844. He was elected Zachary Taylor's vice president in 1848, and became president on Taylor's death in 1850 and served until 1853. In 1856 he was defeated in his run for president as the candidate of the Know-Nothing Party, seeking to unite the country against foreigners. He opposed Lincoln during the Civil War. Fillmore died in 1874 in Buffalo, New York.

Although Abigail Fillmore had a reputation for erudition and wit, when Millard was elected she followed the example of other First Ladies, turning to her eighteen-year-old daughter, Mary, as her substitute on official occasions. It was said that Millard never took an important step without Abigail's advice, but she had little interest in the social role of a president's wife. She was a notable reader and established a White House library. Abigail died in 1853, not long after leaving the White House.

Arizona Timeline

1850 - Compromise of 1850 allows for the admittance into the Union of territories acquired from Mexico as non-slave states. (This included present day New Mexico and Arizona)

1852 - Captain Lorenzo Sitgreaves, one of the first U.S. Topographical Engineers, and a party explored the Kingman area on a survey of the 35th parallel route across Arizona. In the same year, Americans began navigating the Colorado by steam boat.